



LITTLE TOKYO BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

250 E. 1st Street #201, Los Angeles, CA 90012

<http://www.visitlittletokyo.com>

Teresa Wong
Project Manager, Metro
One Gateway Plaza, M/S 99-22-4
Los Angeles, CA 90012
WONGTE@metro.net
RE: West Santa Ana Branch EIR Northern Alignments Study

Dear Teresa Wong,

LTBA POSITION STATEMENT ON WSAB

The Little Tokyo Business Association (LTBA) manages the merchant-based Little Tokyo Business Improvement District and serves more than 400 stakeholders businesses and a residential population of approximately 6,000.

Guiding our recommendations are: The wellbeing of our stakeholders; preservation of Little Tokyo's cultural integrity; and strengthening of our district's economic health.

After careful review of the West Santa Ana Branch (WSAB) proposed northern alignment options slated for study by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), the LTBA board of directors has adopted the recommendations of our association's Transportation Committee as follows:

- ☑ LTBA opposes Alignment F and any other proposed alignment options now known or proposed in the future that threaten to negatively impact the cultural and religious institutions, properties, and businesses that comprise our 134-year-old community's cultural core.
- ☑ LTBA pledges to continue to fervently oppose any at-grade or aerial alignment in our community and strongly urges Metro to study Alignment E (Alameda underground) as an underground-only option. Moreover, we support a one-seat ride that goes up Alameda with a station that connects to the Regional Connector in Little Tokyo and ends at Union Station.
- ☑ LTBA further encourages the study of an amended Alignment G for its potential to provide a meaningful and long-needed east-west artery that can expand connectivity throughout the greater Downtown Los Angeles area.


The experience of trying to keep Little Tokyo's smaller, mom-and-pop businesses afloat during Metro's Regional Connector construction has left many in our community apprehensive at the prospect of yet another round of construction-related

inconveniences, especially since that construction is predicted to be protracted out as far as 2028.

We pray that the benefits of the proposed West Santa Ana Branch ultimately outweigh the inconveniences and are consistent with the following LTBA objectives: (1) the least disruption during construction; (2) ease of access for commuters, customers, and visitors; (3) the convenience of an additional station or portal; and (4) an opportunity to link to the Southern California Regional Connector.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Masao Okamoto', with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Masao "Mike" Okamoto
President
Little Tokyo Business Association